

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SSM-05

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 PM-04 INRE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:OJONES:LD

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

SSM - MR. MCANDREW

NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHREN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION SINAI
CINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JUNE 14

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR JUNE 14,
1976:

Q. HAS THE SECRETARY CONFERRED WITH AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN
ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHEN HE LAST CONFERRED WITH AMBASSADOR
DOBRYNIN. I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK WHEN THEIR LAST MEETING
TOOK PLACE.

Q. IS A MEETING PLANNED FOR TODAY?

A. NO, NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE.

Q. HAVE THERE BEEN ANY RECENT EXCHANGES BETWEEN
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U.S. AND RUSSIA ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. CAN YOU FIND OUT?

A. I WILL CHECK INTO IT.

Q. DON'T YOU HAVE SOME QUESTIONS TO WHICH YOU HAVE NOT

SUPPLIED ANSWERS, LEFT OVER FROM YESTERDAY?

A. I THINK WE HAVE POSTED MOST OF THEM, THERE'S QUITE A FEW.

Q. I THOUGHT I ASKED A COUPLE WHICH YOU DIDN'T REPLY TO.

A. FOR EXAMPLE?

--WE HAD NINE QUESTIONS, AND I HAVE ANSWERED --

Q. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF IDLE CURIOSITY BECAUSE WE PUBLISH A DAILY NEWSPAPER -- BUT ONE OF THE QUESTIONS I ASKED WAS:

--WHAT HAVE YOU HAD IN THE FORM OF LEGAL EXPLANATION OF THE U.S. DECISION THAT THERE WAS NO VIOLATION OF THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES INVOLVED AND THE ISRAELI USE OF C-130S IN UGANDA?

A. I THINK THE ANSWER WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY IMPLIED IN GOVERNOR SCRANTON'S STATEMENT. AND IT WAS CERTAINLY ANSWERED BY YOURSELF IN THE ARTICLE YOU WROTE ON THIS SUBJECT, THIS MORNING, QUOTING A STATE DEPARTMENT LEGAL OFFICIAL.

--AND THE ANSWER IS, OF COURSE, THAT PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN U.S. AND ISRAEL AUTHORIZES THE USE BY ISRAEL OF U.S.-SUPPLIED DEFENSE ARTICLES FOR A NUMBER OF PURPOSES, INCLUDING SELF-DEFENSE.

--AS GOVERNOR SCRANTON STATED IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, THE ENTEBBE RESCUE OPERATION WAS, IN OUR JUDGMENT, LEGALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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JUSTIFIABLE AS A USE OF LIMITED FORCE BY ISRAEL FOR THE PROTECTION OF ITS NATIONALS -- WHICH IS A WELL ESTABLISHED RIGHT THAT FLOWS FROM THE RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENSE.

--THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE THAT THE USE OF THE U.S. SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT FOR THAT OPERATION WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE AUTHORIZED USE FOR SELF-DEFENSE WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT.

Q. SO IN OTHER WORDS, THE SOLUTION TO HOW YOU GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED, IS TO ANSWER THEM YOURSELF?

A. DO YOU WANT AN ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION ALSO?

Q. NO, IT'S JUST AN OBSERVATION.

Q. BOB, HAS SCRANTON, IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL --

A. EXCUSE ME?

Q. MR. SCRANTON, IN HIS STATEMENT IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL SAID THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE JUSTIFIED IN USING FORCE ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT THAT WAS NECESSARY TO FREE THE HOSTAGES.

A. YES.

Q. HAS THE DEPARTMENT ADDRESSED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER EXCESSIVE FORCE WAS USED -- PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE DEATHS OF THE 20 UGANDAN SOLDIERS AND THE REPORT OF APPARENT SUMMARY EXECUTIONS OF THE PALESTINIANS?

A. I THINK HE ADDRESSED THAT POINT IN HIS SPEECH, LARS -- THAT IT WAS JUSTIFIED -- AND THAT IT WAS A LIMITED USE OF FORCE.

Q. THAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW, THAT EXCESSIVE FORCE WAS NOT USED?

A. THAT IS CORRECT.

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Q. HAS SYRIA INFORMED US, THE UNITED STATES, IN ANY WAY AS TO THEIR INTENTIONS OF WITHDRAWING FORCES FROM LEBANON, OR THEIR HOLD ON SIDON?

A. NO, NOT -- WHAT WAS THE LAST?

Q. OR THE HOLD ON THE CITY OF SIDON?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER ON ANY ADDITIONAL U.S. NAVAL OR AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS IN THE KENYAN REGION?

A. NO.

Q. HAS THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT PUT OUT ANYTHING ADDITIONAL TODAY?

A. NO, I DO NOT BELIEVE SO.

Q. ARE WE AWARE OF ANY EFFORTS BY THE SOVIET UNION TO PERSUADE THE SYRIANS TO WITHDRAW?

A. NO.

Q. FROM LEBANON?

A. NO.

Q. DO WE THINK THE SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL, OR PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE HELPFUL UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES?

A. I THINK THAT THAT QUESTION HAS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE LARGER CONTEXT OF OUR POSITION ON LEBANON, WHICH IS THAT THE FIGHTING HAS TO STOP AND THAT THE LEBANESE, THEMSELVES, SHOULD GET TOGETHER AND RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES TO PERMIT LEBANON TO LIVE IN PEACE --

Q. ARE YOU -- ARE YOU SAYING --

A. -- I AM NOT PREPARED TO ANSWER THE SPECIFIC QUESTION.

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Q. MAYBE WE CAN MAKE IT EASIER. ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE HELPFUL IF IT IS PART OF -- ONLY IF IT IS PART OF -- THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE FIGHTING WOULD STOP AND THE LEBANESE FACTIONS WOULD GET TOGETHER, OR ARE YOU SAYING IT IS HELPFUL IF IT'S A STEP TOWARD THAT GOAL?

-

A. I REALLY WANT TO CONFINE MY RESPONSE ON THE LEBANESE QUESTION TO MORE GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. I REALLY AM NOT --

Q. I CAN'T BECAUSE TODAY'S PROBLEM IS WHETHER THE SYRIANS SHOULD WITHDRAW THEIR -- RELEASE THEIR HOLD IN SIDON, AND WHETHER THEY SHOULD BEGIN WITHDRAWING FORCES FROM LEBANON.

AND THAT IS THE SIMPLE QUESTION I AM PUTTING TO YOU -- DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT THINK EITHER OF THOSE, OR BOTH OF THOSE, WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TODAY -- BEARING IN MIND THAT YOU HAVE A BROADER VIEW OF THE LEBANESE SITUATION.

A. LET ME LOOK INTO IT AND SEE IF WE CAN BE MORE SPECIFIC.
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